

Amendments in the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7 of the Application, lines 5-25, with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, coupler 10 also includes means 36 formed in base 12 for mounting base 12 on surface 38, perhaps best shown in Figure 2. As indicated, surface 38 may be a curved surface 38' as shown by cross-reference among Figures 1, 3 and 4. As shown by cross-reference among Figures 1-4, mounting means 36, in a preferred embodiment of the present invention, is a plurality of bores 24a-d ~~ball washer assemblies 40~~. As shown, ball washer assemblies 40a-d are combinable with mounting means 36, and include the one or more second threaded bolts 30a-d, each formed with a frustoconical cap 42. Frustoconical cap 42 is mateably engageable with frustoconical recess 32 in one or more bores 24a-c of base 12. One or more ball washer assemblies 40a-d also include one or more ball washers 44. As shown, one or more ball washers 44a-d are shaped to include a substantially hemispherical exterior surface 46, an interior surface 48, and duct 50 formed between substantially hemispherical exterior surface 46 and interior surface 48 of one or more ball washers 44a-d. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, duct 50 in a ball washer 44 is formed with a diameter larger than the diameter of second threaded bolt 30a-d, as shown best by cross-reference between Figures 3 and 4. The diameter of ducts 50a-d is larger than the diameter of second threaded bolt 30a-d to enhance the mechanical advantage of allowing the present invention to be mounted on other than a straight or level surface 38. As shown in Figure 3, the dissimilar diameters of ducts 50a-d and bolts 30a-d allow ducts 50a-d to move, adjust, and accommodate to the curvature of a curved surface 38' by allowing concave cups 34c-d, shown in Figure 4, to slidably and movably engage hemispherical exterior surfaces 46c-d, as also shown in Figure 4, while at the same time allowing the larger diameter ducts 50c-d to move and adjust in relation to bolts 30c-d, so that coupler 10 may be mounted in a variety of positions on a curved surface 38'.